

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested. By this amendment, claims 2, 3, 5, 9, 10, 12, 13, 15, 19, and 20 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 1, 7, 8, 11, 17 and 18 have been amended. Claims 21-26 are newly added. No new matter has been added. Claims 1, 7, 8, 11, 17, 18, and 21-26 are now pending.

By this amendment, independent claims 1, 8, 11, and 18 have been amended. The amended independent claims recite the feature of recovering a TD that is determined to be forgery. This feature is supported by the specification (page 11, lines 4-6). In addition, the amended independent claims 1, 8, 11, and 18 recite the feature that a bearer to whom a passing ticket is not issued is subject to examination by an examiner at an examination booth. This feature is supported also by the specification (Fig. 2, element 36, Fig. 5, ST10, Fig. 6, ST17). In addition, according to claims 8 and 18, such a bearer is not permitted to pass a gate without a passing ticket.

In Section 4 of the Office Action, dated August 13, 2003, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 7-13, 15, and 17-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sweatte (U.S. Patent No. 6,335,688) in view of Ballantine et al. (WO 00/28484). Further, the Examiner rejected claims 5, 8-10, 15, and 18-20 as being unpatentable over Sweatte. The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Sweatte discloses an airport security system in which a check-in counter issues a wireless PASS smartcard to be used by the passenger as an electronic boarding pass in order to depart regardless if the passenger is validated or not. The passenger is permitted to depart as soon as the PASS is issued. That is, the security system taught by Sweatte permits a passenger to depart even if the passenger validation fails. If the check against the database indicates any problem, the PASS card is tracked wirelessly to pursue the

departed passenger (see column 4, line 26 to column 5, line 9).

According to Sweatte, the authenticity of the data obtained from the passenger at the check-in counter is not examined when such is collected and the PASS smartcard is issued before the check is completed. That is, Sweatte teaches a system in which a passenger is **always issued a PASS smartcard** even when the passenger is not validated, a passenger is **allowed to leave the check point despite of the validation result**, a passenger's ID card is **never recovered when it is determined to be forgery**, and a passenger is **not to be examined by an examiner at an examination booth** after the passenger is not issued a PASS smartcard.

Ballantine et al. does not remedy Sweatte's deficiencies. As correctly pointed out by the Examiner, Ballantine et al. "disclose a self-service terminal for controlling access to a facility comprising means for identifying a user before issuing a ticket to the user wherein the ticket is not issued if the user is not approved (page 10, lines 13-23)." However, Ballantine et al. do not disclose, teach, or fairly suggest a system in which a user is **not allowed to leave if validation is not successful**, a user's ticket is **never recovered when the user is not authenticated**, and a user who fails the validation is **not subject to examination by an examiner at an examination booth**.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1, 8, 11, and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn. Claims 1, 8, 11, and 18 are now patentable.

Claim 7 depends from claim 1. Consequently, claim 7 is patentable at least for the reasons stated above with respect to claim 1 and for the additional features recited therein. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 7 under §103(a) be withdrawn.

Claim 17 depends from claim 11. Consequently, claim 17 is patentable at least for the reasons stated above with respect to claim 11 and for the additional features recited

therein. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 17 under §103(a) be withdrawn.

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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